

26. A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 607 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

27. A DNA molecule having a sequence consisting of nucleotides which encode amino acids 112 to 578 of a hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein.

28. The DNA molecule of claim 25, wherein the molecule encodes a protein having its amino-terminus at amino acid 112 of SEQ ID NO:2 and its carboxy-terminus at an amino acid in the range of amino acids 578 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

29. The DNA molecule of claim 26, wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112 to 607 of SEQ ID NO:2.

30. The DNA molecule of claim 27, wherein the molecule encodes amino acids 112-578 of SEQ ID NO:2.

31. A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA molecule according to claims 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30.

32. A host cell containing an expression vector according to claim 31.

33. A method of producing a recombinant hepatitis E virus open reading frame 2 protein, said method comprising:

(a) culturing a host cell of claim 32 under conditions

appropriate to cause expression of said protein; and

(b) obtaining said expressed protein from the host cell.